Mountain Weather Forecast

North Grampian

Including North and West Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath, Ben Alder, Creag Meagaidh, Loch Ericht and Loch Rannoch
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 19 Dec 2023 at 09:23 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for an unsettled weather pattern on lead up to Christmas. Very windy conditions will make walking difficult over higher ridges and summits with storm force winds on Thursday.

Headline for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023: Cloudy. Outbreaks of rain, early snow higher peaks. Very windy and feeling bitterly cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Sleet	Light rain	Light rain	Light rain	Light rain
Precipitation probability							
00%	20%	20%	70%	60%	50%	40%	30%

Forecast for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloudy with showers then more persistent rain extending east soon after dawn. Snow initially above 800m, turning to rain at all levels by afternoon. Some heavier rain for western ranges such as Creag Meagaidh but staying lighter, patchy over northern Cairngorms and east of area.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance in west of area but 30% in sheltered north and east.

Low cloud and visibility: Misty conditions soon developing, especially in the west with poor visibility in persistent rain and also in clouds which will be well down the hills. Pockets of good visibility in north and east of area with cloud bases about 700 to 900m.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Wednesday 20 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	52/67 NW	44/57 W	41/53 W	40/51 W	44/58 W	46/60 W	49/65 W	51/69 W	58/79 W
900	40/51 W	32/41 W	29/37 W	30/37 SW	34/43 W	34/44 W	37/49 W	39/53 W	46/63 W
600	26/36 W	20/28 W	19/26 W	19/26 SW	21/29 W	20/30 W	24/35 W	25/39 W	30/47 W
300	15/33 W	9/25 W	8/21 W	8/20 SW	9/25 W	11/27 W	14/32 W	16/36 W	19/42 W
Glen	6/30 W	5/28 W	4/22 W	3/18 SW	5/26 W	5/27 W	6/30 W	8/33 W	8/35 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-4/-16	-5/-16	-5/-16	-3/-13	-1/-11	-0/-10	0/-9	0/-9	0/-10
900	-1/-11	-2/-10	-1/-10	0/-8	2/-5	3/-4	4/-4	4/-4	3/-5
600	1/-7	1/-6	1/-5	2/-4	4/-1	5/0	6/0	6/0	6/-0
300	2/-3	2/-2	3/-1	3/-0	6/2	7/4	8/4	8/4	8/3
Glen	2/-1	2/0	2/1	3/1	7/5	8/6	9/6	8/5	9/5
Freezing Level*	600m	600m	600m	900m	1400m	1400m	1600m	1500m	1500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Feeling bitterly cold with very strong, gusty winds making walking very difficult. Note winds expected to increase to storm force during evening.

Forecast for Thursday 21 Dec 2023

Weather: A very windy and cold day with bright spells and blustery showers. The showers turning increasingly to snow above about 500m.

Maximum wind: Severe gale force west or Northwest winds reaching storm force on the tops. Average speeds of 50 to 60mph with gusts 90mph but in excess of 100mph over Cairngorm summit.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%

Low cloud and visibility: Occasionally good visibility with occasional cloud cover above 700 to 800m. Marked reductions to poor visibility as showers pass by with clouds briefly lower down the hills.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 7 Celsius.
At 800m: Plus 4 Celsius falling to Minus 2 Celsius.
Freezing level: 1100m falling to 600m.

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